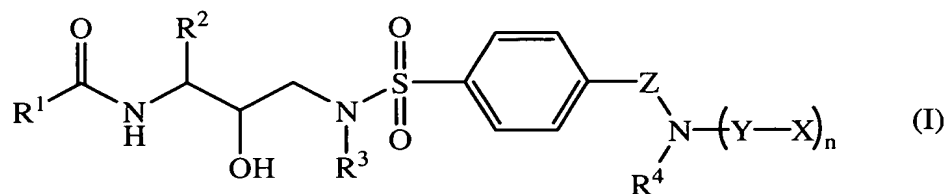


Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned application.

1. (Original) A prodrug having the formula



the stereoisomeric form or salt thereof, wherein

n is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

Y is proline, alanine, hydroxyproline, dihydroxyproline, thiazolidinecarboxylic acid (thiopline), dehydropoline, pipecolic acid (L-homoproline), azetidinecarboxylic acid, aziridinecarboxylic acid, glycine, serine, valine, leucine, isoleucine and threonine;

X is selected from any amino acid in the D- or L-configuration;

X and Y in each repeat of [Y-X] are chosen independently from one another and independently from other repeats;

Z is a direct bond or a bivalent straight or branched saturated hydrocarbon group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

R¹ is an aryl, heteroaryl, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, aryloxyC₁₋₄alkyl, heterocycloalkyloxy, heterocycloalkylC₁₋₄alkyloxy, heteroaryloxyC₁₋₄alkyl, heteroarylC₁₋₄alkyloxy;

R² is arylC₁₋₄alkyl;

R³ is C₁₋₁₀alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl or C₃₋₇cycloalkylC₁₋₄alkyl;

R⁴ is hydrogen or C₁₋₄alkyl;

aryl, when used alone or in combination with another group, means phenyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each individually selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₄alkyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₄alkyloxy, nitro, cyano, halo, amino, mono- or di(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino and amido;

heteroaryl, when used alone or in combination with another group, means a monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic heterocycle having one or more oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen heteroatoms, which aromatic heterocycle may optionally be substituted on one or more carbon atoms with a substituent selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkyloxy, amino, hydroxy, aryl, amido, mono- or di(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, halo, nitro, heterocycloalkyl and C₁₋₄alkyloxycarbonyl, and which aromatic heterocycle may also be optionally substituted on a secondary nitrogen atom by C₁₋₄alkyl or arylC₁₋₄alkyl;

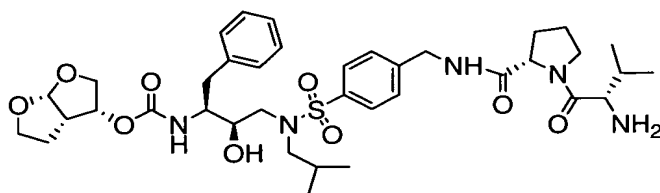
heterocycloalkyl, when used alone or in combination with another group, means a saturated or partially unsaturated monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle having one or more oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen heteroatoms, which heterocycle may optionally be substituted on one or more carbon atoms with a substituent selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkyloxy, hydroxy, halo and oxo, and which heterocycle may also be optionally substituted on a secondary nitrogen atom by C₁₋₄alkyl or arylC₁₋₄alkyl.

2. (Original) A prodrug as claimed in claim 1 wherein each X independently is selected from a naturally occurring amino acid.
3. (Currently Amended) A prodrug as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein n is 1, 2 or 3.
4. (Currently Amended) A prodrug as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein n is 2 or 3 and wherein at least one X is an hydrophobic or aromatic amino acid.
5. (Currently Amended) A prodrug as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ wherein n is 2 or 3 and wherein at least one X is an neutral or acidic amino acid.
6. (Currently Amended) A prodrug as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ wherein n is 2 or 3 and wherein at least one X is a basic amino acid.
7. (Currently Amended) A prodrug as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ wherein -(Y-X)_n comprises amino-terminally X-Pro, X-Ala, X-Gly, X-Ser, X-Val, or X-Leu.

8. (Currently Amended) A prodrug as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ wherein $-(Y-X)_n$ comprises amino-terminally X-proline or X-alanine.
9. (Currently Amended) A prodrug as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ wherein each Y independently is proline, alanine, glycine, serine, valine or leucine.
10. (Currently Amended) A prodrug as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ wherein each Y independently is proline or hydroxyproline or dihydroxyproline or alanine.
11. (Currently Amended) A prodrug as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ wherein each Y independently is proline or alanine.
12. (Currently Amended) A prodrug as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ wherein $-(Y-X)_n$ is $-(Y-X)_{1 \text{ or } 2}$ -Y-Val.
13. (Currently Amended) A prodrug as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ wherein $-(Y-X)_n$ is $-(Y-X)_{1 \text{ or } 2}$ -Pro-Val.
14. (Currently Amended) A prodrug as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~ wherein the $(Y-X)_n$ oligopeptide is built up with (Y-X) repeats selected from the group consisting of Pro-Val, Pro-Asp, Pro-Ser, Pro-Lys, Pro-Arg, Pro-His, Pro-Phe, Pro-Ile, Pro-Leu, Ala-Val, Ala-Asp, Ala-Ser, Ala-Lys, Ala-Arg, Ala-His, Ala-Phe, Ala-Ile and Ala-Leu.
15. (Currently Amended) A prodrug as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~ wherein R^1 is heterocycloalkyloxy, heteroaryl, heteroaryl C_{1-4} alkyloxy, aryl or aryloxy C_{1-4} alkyl.
16. (Currently Amended) A prodrug as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~ wherein R^1 is hexahydrofuro[2,3-b]furan-3-yl-oxy, tetrahydrofuran-3-yl-oxy, quinolin-2-yl, thiazol-5-ylmethyloxy, 3-hydroxy-2-methyl-1-phenyl, 2,6-dimethylphenoxyethyl.

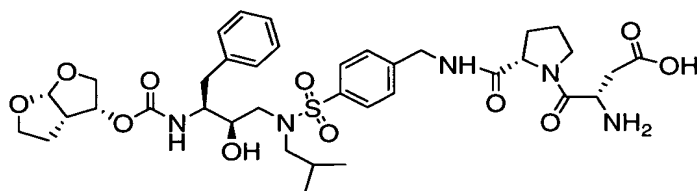
17. (Currently Amended) A prodrug as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 16~~ wherein R¹ is hexahydrofuro[2,3-b]furan-3-yl-oxy, tetrahydrofuran-3-yl-oxy, quinolin-2-yl, thiazol-5-ylmethoxy, 3-hydroxy-2-methyl-1-phenyl, 2,6-dimethylphenoxyethyl.
18. (Currently Amended) A prodrug as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 17~~ wherein R¹ is (3R, 3aS, 6aR)-hexahydrofuro[2,3-b]furan-3-yl-oxy.
19. (Currently Amended) A prodrug as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 18~~ wherein R² is phenylmethyl; R³ is isobutyl and R⁴ is hydrogen.
20. (Currently Amended) A prodrug as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 19~~ wherein Z is methylene.

21. (Original) A prodrug according to claim 1 wherein the prodrug is



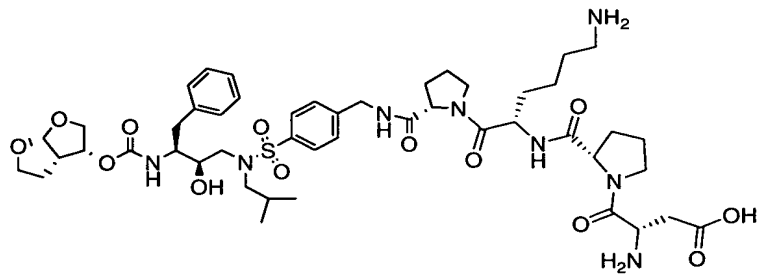
or a salt thereof.

22. (Original) A prodrug according to claim 1 wherein the prodrug is



or a salt thereof.

23. (Original) A prodrug according to claim 1 wherein the prodrug is



or a salt thereof.

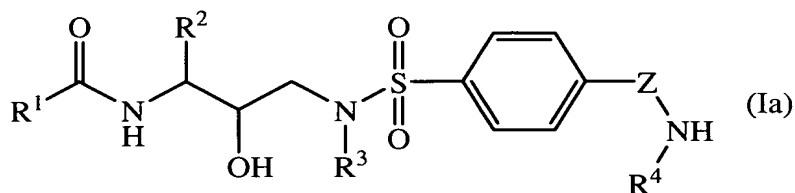
24. (Currently Cancelled)

25. (Currently Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing or treating HIV infection comprising ~~by administering to a any host, including a human, a non human animal and mammals,~~ a prodrug according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 23~~ in an amount effective to prevent or treat the HIV infection.

27. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical preparation comprising ~~which contains an effective dose of at least one of the a prodrug according to claim 1~~ ~~prodrugs as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 23 in addition to customary pharmaceutically innocuous excipients and auxiliaries.~~

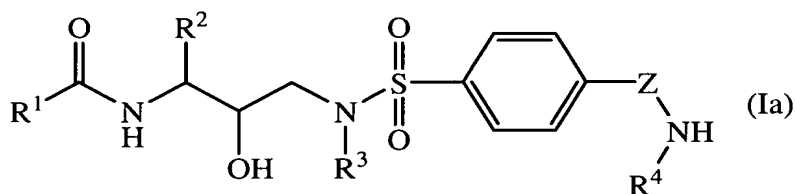
28. (Currently Amended) A method for modulating the water solubility, modulating plasma protein binding and/or the bioavailability of a therapeutic compound



by said method comprising coupling a peptide of formula $H-(X-Y)_n$ to said prodrug wherein n, X, Y, R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and Z are as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 23~~ and wherein the resulting conjugate is cleavable by a dipeptidyl-peptidase.

29. (Original) A method according to claim 28 wherein the dipeptidyl-peptidase is CD26.

30. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a prodrug of a therapeutic compound



wherein ~~the~~ said prodrug is cleavable by a dipeptidyl-peptidase, said ~~the~~ method comprising ~~the step of~~ linking a therapeutic compound and a peptide of formula

$H-(X-Y)_n$ wherein n, X, Y, R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and Z are as defined in claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 20 and~~ wherein the resulting conjugate is cleavable by a dipeptidyl-peptidase.

31. (Original) A method according to claim 30 wherein the dipeptidyl-peptidase is CD26.